

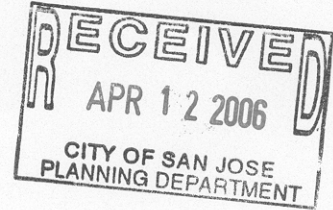
East Side Union High School District

830 North Capitol Avenue • San José, California 95133-1316 • 408-347-5000

Academic, personal and social success for each and every student.

Bob Nuñez, Superintendent

April 12, 2006



Honorable Dave Cortese
Chairperson, Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force
Honorable Nora Campos, Vice Chairperson
Vice Chairperson, Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force
City of San Jose Planning, Building & Code
Enforcement Planning Services Division
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

**Re: Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy;
East Side Union High School District**

Dear Chairperson David Cortese, Vice Chairperson Nora Campos and Task Force Members:

The development of the Opportunity Sites in the Evergreen community promises to bring substantial new housing, retail, commercial and public works and transportation improvements to our community. The East Side Union High School District ("District") appreciates the opportunity to be involved in this important process.

As you know, the study area under review by the Task Force lies entirely within the boundaries of the District. Indeed, the District is the largest public school district serving the communities and neighborhoods that will be most impacted by the planned development.

- The District encompasses approximately 180 square miles of geographic territory and covers roughly one half of the geographic area of the City of San Jose.
- The District has a current enrollment of approximately 25,000 students at eighteen high schools, including eleven comprehensive high schools. The District's oldest operating high school is James Lick High School which first opened nearly 60 years ago.
- The District employs over 2,100 individuals as teachers, administrators and staff.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: J. Manuel Herrera, Craig Mann, Patricia Martinez-Roach, Lan Nguyen, George Shirakawa.

It is the policy of the East Side Union High School District not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, religion, race or national origin, sexual orientation, or handicapping condition in its educational programs and activities or in the recruitment and employment of personnel.

The stated “Vision and Expected Outcomes” of the Task Force process include, among other things:

“To the fullest extent possible, work with affected school districts to ensure adequate school capacity without sacrificing a high quality education environment”; and

“Create a financially feasible plan with the appropriate use of Community Facilities District(s), developer contributions, and other mechanisms for the completion of transportation improvements and community amenities.”

Board President J. Manuel Herrera serves as the District’s representative on the Task Force. The District appreciates the Task Force members’ willingness to consider and review the impacts the contemplated development will have on the District’s ability to provide a high quality educational environment to communities throughout the District.

Over the last several months the District has been considering a demographic study prepared for the District by Enrollment Projection Consultants and which includes enrollment projections for all of the District’s school sites and attendance areas. The study also includes enrollment projections for the District through the year 2014. As you probably know, for the last several years enrollment growth in the District has been concentrated in the southern portion of the District. In fact, Evergreen Valley High School and Silver Creek High School are nearing full enrollment capacity. As a consequence, the District is now in the midst of considering realignment of attendance boundaries for school sites as a means of addressing existing facilities and capacity issues. District-organized hearings and meetings will begin soon to obtain and consider important community input in the boundary realignment process.

Within this framework the District has been analyzing and assessing the impacts the contemplated development in the Task Force study area will have on the District and its ability to provide a *high quality education environment* to all of its students. In that regard, the District foresees at least the following impacts:

(1) Development of the Evergreen/East Hills area in the manner currently envisioned by the Task Force will increase enrollment in the District by approximately 1,100 students over the planned period of development.

(2) The current total optimal capacity of all of the District’s existing comprehensive high schools (approximately 26,900 students) can accommodate that expected increase in student enrollment but only through additional boundary realignments and critical new capital expenditures for facilities (new classrooms, resources, etc.). In other words, absorption of those students in the future into the existing high schools will require realignment of attendance boundaries in the direction of the northern portion of the District for the schools in and surrounding the Evergreen area, in addition to the planned boundary realignment process already underway in the District.

(3) The projected increased enrollment will impact the District’s already-strained resources and facilities. Boundary realignments will result in more intense utilization of existing facilities as far north as James Lick High School, one of the oldest high school facilities in the County. **In short, planned development in the Evergreen area and consequent enrollment increases,**

boundary changes and other absorption measures will have ripple and cumulative effects across the District and will not be limited to those schools in the Evergreen community.

(4) The District currently lacks the resources necessary to construct a new comprehensive high school. In light of the District's current capacity and ability to absorb projected enrollment increases through boundary changes and other measures, the District is not likely to qualify in the near term for substantial State funding to construct a new high school.

(5) The development envisioned by the Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy will bring the District closer to full student enrollment capacity for its existing high school facilities.

(6) Along with the expected increase in student enrollment resulting from the Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy development, it is expected that development of residential tracts in the southeastern portion of the District in the future will necessitate the construction of a new comprehensive high school in that area to accommodate those new students as well as students from the existing Evergreen area and the Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy area. However, given the uncertainties of the planning process, it is too early to estimate when such a high school will require. Nevertheless, sound advance planning practices mandate that the District begin preparation for such future development and enrollments by undertaking early efforts to acquire land suitable for a future high school site in the southern portion of the District.

(7) The District remains committed to providing excellent educational and learning opportunities for all of its neighborhoods and communities.

In short, the development of the Evergreen area in the manner currently contemplated by the Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy Task Force will likely have short term and long term impacts on the District's ability to provide a high quality educational environment at its schools:

(A) Increased and more intense utilization of the District's existing high school facilities and resources (especially Mt. Pleasant, W.C. Overfelt and James Lick) as attendance boundary realignments are implemented and consequent and necessary expenditures for classrooms and for maintenance and upkeep;

(B) Additional drain on District's already-scarce funds and resources as the District implements academic program changes (e.g., magnet schools, academies, etc.) and facilities improvements to "draw" students to comprehensive school sites with available capacity.

This is to inform you that in light of the foregoing issues, impacts and analysis, the Board of Trustees of the District at its April 6, 2006, Regular Meeting adopted the following position and principles with respect to the Evergreen • East Hills Vision Strategy and the Evergreen Development Policy:

- 1. Set-Aside for Capital Improvements to Existing Impacted Schools.** The Vision Strategy and the Evergreen Development Plan must include a set-aside of funds to be used by the District for capital improvements (including, e.g., new and/or modernized classroom facilities, etc.) to affected existing school sites to accommodate necessary enrollment increases and that will *"ensure adequate school capacity without sacrificing a high quality education environment"*;

2. **Land for Future School Site.** The Vision Strategy and the Evergreen Development Plan must include a reservation of a sufficient amount of land (suitable for school purposes) in favor of the District in the southeastern portion of the District (south of the Task Force study area) to establish a "footprint" for the District in that area for a future school site once development of that area begins in earnest.
3. **Evergreen Development Policy.** The District shall seek direct input in the development of the new Evergreen Development Policy in regard to matters that will affect or contribute to the acquisition of lands or raising of funds to meet the needs of the District and its families and students.
4. **Future Bond Measure.** The District will seek a contribution or set-aside of funds by owners/developers to assist the District in passage of a future bond measure for construction of a new school.

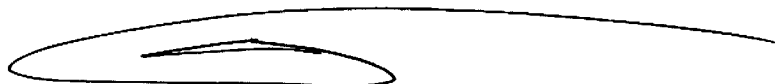
A fundamental premise of the above recommendations is that the contemplated development in the Evergreen area will have long-lasting impacts in existing communities and neighborhoods adjacent to the Evergreen neighborhood community and that are within the District's boundaries. The District remains committed to mustering and using its limited resources in a manner that will promote educational equity and educational excellence throughout the District. We look forward to working with the City and the owners and developers in partnership towards achieving that important goal.

Sincerely,



J. Manuel Herrera
Board President

Sincerely,



Bob Nuñez
Superintendent

cc: *City Councilmembers, City of San Jose*
Mr. John Baty, City of San Jose